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Message Text

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70
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /020 W
---------- 037956
R 191751 JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8859
INFO USDOC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 779

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: ETRD, EEWT, UR, US
SUBJECT: SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER ALKHIMOV ON BILATERAL TRADE

USDOC FOR DAS DOWNEY

BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

1. SPEAKING AT JANUARY 19 FAREWELL LUNCHEON FOR DEPARTING AMERICAN MEMBER OF US-USSR TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL'S MOSCOW STAFF, DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER ALKHIMOV TOOK GENERALLY POSITIVE VIEW OF BILATERAL TRADE PROPECTS. AFTER REGRETTING UNAVAILABLILITY OF MFN FOR SOVIET EXPORTS, HE COMMENTED HE FELT CONFIDENT, GIVEN INCREASED AWARENESS OF MUTUAL INTERDEPENDENCE IN BOTH COUNTRIES, THAT WITH TIME TRULY SATISFACTORY CONDITIONS FOR BILATERAL TRADE WILL COME ABOUT. WHILE HE SAID NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE, POSITIVE TENOR OF HIS REMARKS WAS IN MARKED CONTRAST WITH GLOOMY VIEWS HE HAS EXPRSSED IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS IN RECENT WEEKS.

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2. POINTING HIS REMARKS TOWARD RESIDENT US BUSINESSMEN WHO DOMINATED GUEST LIST, ALKHIMOV PROBABLY HOPED TO REACH THEIR US CORPORATE OFFICES WITH GENTEL REMINDER TO KEEP PUSHING FOR TRADE ACT AMENDMENTS. HIS CALM, SHYLY HUMOROUS MANNER, WHILE CALCULATED, WAS A WELCOME CHANGE FROM IRASCIBLE TONE WHICH DOMINATED ATMOSPH-ERE DURING DOWNEY VISIT IN DECEMBER.
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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SOCIAL RECEPTIONS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW00779
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760020-0243
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760193/aaaagdsz.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <01 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 970918
Subject: SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER ALKHIMOV ON BILATERAL TRADE
TAGS: EEWT, ETRD, UR, US, (ALKHIMOV)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006